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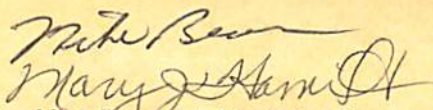
APR 19 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

April 18, 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners,

We are writing this letter due to an ongoing public safety issue at our business location. My wife and I own "The Hamilton, A Public House" located at 104 Main Street, Victor, Mt. 59875. In the summer of 2005 the main street business section of Victor received a new look with construction of a "Boulevard" and new sidewalks with street lights, benches and trees. During the construction we observed what we thought to be a dangerous situation. We observed that the forms for the concrete boulevard were a good 4" higher than the sidewalk. We were shocked to see this and immediately stopped construction. We contacted the Architect, engineer, contractor, Victor Civic organization, County Commissioners office and the owner of the building, at that time, (Mark Mann). During a meeting at the site we explained our real concerns for having a step down off of the boulevard onto the sidewalk, knowing it would be a trip hazard. We offered several options for construction however it was decided that construction would go on as planned. The owner of the building at that time, Mark Mann, seeing the real danger of law suits immediately tried to get a hold harmless certificate from the state but it was refused. Since the finish of construction we have watched one person after the other twist their ankles and fall down on the sidewalk. I have watched people with babies in their arms fall on top of them on the sidewalk after tripping on the boulevard. Not one shift goes by without me watching someone trip or fall in front of the building. Most of the incidents take place while people are walking into the building. Even after a minor tripping incident I hear people ask me "So who do I sue". I have helped numerous people up after tripping, some with serious sprains. Several of the people have been helped inside and ice applied in the restaurant until able to get back out to their cars. Recently I saw a woman, Carol MacCormac, of 109 Big Creek Dr., Victor, Mt. take a terrible fall. She tripped and fell right on her face causing major bruising on her face along with a severely sprained ankle. She is currently seeking damages with the county and the incident may end up in a lawsuit. We as business owners, feel that we, as well as the current building owners, have been placed in a situation that is totally out of our control as we were against the construction of the boulevard as currently built. A serious injury is going to happen, it is only a matter of time! We are requesting that County officials take whatever action necessary to correct the situation and ensure the publics safety.



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